

second character image data storage means for storing character  
image data expressing a character as an image;

determination means for determining whether character image data expressing a character as an image has been stored in said second character image data storage means, wherein said character has been specified by the character string, has a font that has been specified by the font specifying data and a size that has been designated by the size designating data; and

enlarging/reducing means which, in response to a determination by said determination means to the effect that the character image data has not been stored in said second character image data storage means, is for processing the character image data in such a manner that, of character image data that has been stored in said

second character image data storage means, a character image that has been specified by the character specifying data and has a font that has been specified by the font specifying data will be enlarged or reduced so as to take on a size that has been designated by the size designating data.

7. (Twice Amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein said client computer further includes style data transmitting means for transmitting, to the server, character style designating data for designating style of a character specified by the character specifying data; and

said server further includes:

designated character-style retrieval means for retrieving, from a first character image data storage means, designated-style character image data expressing, as an image, a character of a style designated by the character style designating data transmitted from said style data transmitting means;

designated-style character image data generating means for generating the designated-style character image data in response to a situation where the designated-style character image data is not found by said designated character-style retrieval means; and

designated-style character image data transmitting means for

Ex 1  
Ex 2  
Ex 3  
end

transmitting, to said client computer, the designated-style character image data generated by said designated-style character image data generating means or the designated-style character image data found by said designated character-style retrieval means.

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8. The system according to claim 7, wherein said server further includes style information transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, style information for generating the designated-style character image data; and

said client computer further includes means for generating the designated-style character image data based upon the style information and the character image data transmitted from said style information transmitting means.

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Ex 1  
Ex 2  
Ex 3  
Ex 4

10. (Thrice Amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein said server includes:

a printing device; and

means for generating new character image data, from the character image data that has been designated by character image data generating means, so as to obtain a character image having a resolution suited to the resolution of said printing device.

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Please add the following new claims:

--30. (NEW) A font sharing system in which data can be communicated between a client computer and a server, data representing a character string including a plurality of characters and data representing sizes of characters are included in the character string being transmitted to said server from said client computer, said server comprising:

layout generating means for generating data representing a layout based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters transmitted from said client computer; and

transmitting means for transmitting the layout data generated by said layout generating means, said client computer comprising:

display control means for controlling a display device so as to display frames on a display screen, each of the frames corresponding to the size of each character included in the character string based upon the layout data transmitted from said transmitting means of said server.

31. (NEW) A client computer capable of communicating data with a server, comprising:

input means for inputting a character string including a plurality of characters;

designating means for designating sizes of characters included in the character string inputted from said input means;

transmitting means for transmitting the character string data inputted from said input means and data representing the sizes of character designated by said designating means;

layout data receiving means for receiving layout data generated by said server based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters transmitted from said transmitting means; and

display control means for controlling a display device so as to display frames on a display screen, each of the frames corresponding to the size of each character included in the character string based upon the layout data received from said receiving means of said server.

32. (NEW) A server capable of communicating data with a client computer, comprising:

receiving means for receiving data representing a character string including a plurality of characters transmitted from said client computer and sizes of characters, which are included in the

character string transmitted from said client computer;

layout generating means for generating data representing a layout based upon the data representing the character string and the data representing the sizes of characters; and

transmitting means for transmitting the layout data generated by said layout generating means.

33. (NEW) The system according to claim 30, wherein each of the frames are box-shaped such that each of the frames is able to enclose their respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters.

34. (NEW) The client computer according to claim 31, wherein each of the frames are box-shaped such that each of the frames is able to enclose their respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters.

35. (NEW) The server according to claim 32, wherein each of the frames are box-shaped such that each of the frames is able to enclose their respective characters that are represented by the data representing the sizes of characters. ✓